

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /063 W

----- 076339

R 071415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1802

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD; ON RELATIONS WITH THE
EAST

1. ON JULY 3 THE SAUDI PRESS REPEATED MOST OF AN
INTERVIEW WHICH CROWN PRINCE FAHD GAVE TO THE YAR
NEWSPAPER AL THAWRA. THIS KIND OF REPEAT IN THE
SAUDI PRESS GENERALLY MEANS MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
ENCOURAGEMENT. MOST OF THE ARTICLE WAS A BLAND AND
STANDARD REPEAT OF SAUDI POLICY, THOUGH WE FOUND
FAHD'S REMARKS ON RELATIONS WITH THE EAST TO REPRESENT
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SOMEWHAT OF A DEPARTURE. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING;

"THE KINGDOM IS OPEN TO ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD BE THEY EASTERN OR WESTERN AND OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE EXISTING WITH ALL THESE COUNTRIES. WE EXPECT THE EASTERN CAMP TO RESPECT THE SPIRITUAL VALUES OF THE BELIEVERS WHO ARE LIVING IN IT BY ALLOWING THEM TO PRACTICE THEIR RELIGIOUS RITES."

2. THE STATEMENT IS CAUTIOUS AND HARDLY STARTLING, BUT IT IS ON A SUBJECT WHICH SAUDI OFFICIALS GENERALLY DO NOT ADDRESS PUBLICLY AT ALL. COMBINED WITH OTHER RECENT MANIFESTATIONS OF A MORE FLEXIBLE AND ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY, STATEMENTS OF THIS KIND SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE SOVIETS TO CONTINUE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MELT THE SAUDI FREEZE ON THEIR RELATIONS. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT THINK THAT IT PRESAGES AN EARLY CHANGE IN SAUDI POLICY IN REGARD TO RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OR IN SAUDI OPPOSITION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BY THE GULF STATES, BUT IT MAY BE A STRAW IN THE WIND.
HORAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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